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# THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

## THE AMERICAN ART SCHOOL.



GREAT feature of American decoration at the present day is the use of painted tapestries for wall panels or for friezes or ceilings, which supersedes, to a great extent, the decoration of the walls themselves in fresco, oil colors, or distemper. The utility and convenience of this method of decoration, not to speak of their great artistic merits will be apparent to everyone. Costly

decorations are no longer liable to ruin from the scaling of the plaster, or the cracking of the wall, for the tapestry panel is simply attached to the wall without being a part thereof, and is removable at pleasure. In Europe, dye-painted tapestries are

room in a well-known New York residence, the subjects being entirely Shakespearian. She has also furnished a number of exquisite Flemish designs for another dining-room, and has also furnished the tapestry designs used in upholstering the twelve handsomely carved chairs therein. Mrs. Blanchard has given a great deal of time and study to the subject of painted tapestries as decorations, and some years ago visited the art galleries and palaces of France and Italy, where she studied the use of tapestry in decoration.

In addition to executing decorations and superintending the large corps of artists, Mrs. Blanchard has charge of the American Art School, where all branches of painting are taught. Many thoroughly good artists do not possess the faculty of imparting their knowledge to others, but with this faculty Mrs. Blanchard is happily endowed, and her students make rapid progress.



ONE OF MRS. BLANCHARD'S STUDIOS.

almost exclusively used for decorations, the oil-painted tapestry being not as yet made use of to any extent. The price of such tapestries prohibits their use in any but the most costly houses, whereas, the oil-painted tapestry is a truly democratic idea, and the most beautiful panels can be had, in which are copied the finest of modern paintings, at prices ranging from five to three hundred dollars.

In America, since the introduction of painted tapestries a few years ago by Mrs. A. L. Blanchard, the use of these noble decorations has enormously increased, until they bid fair, from present appearances, to rival even wall-paper itself in mural decoration. Mrs. Blanchard's American Art School is situated at 953 Broadway, New York, overlooking 23rd St., where she keeps on hand a very large stock of painted tapestries. She has lately finished a series of tapestry panels for the dining-

The school has been very prosperous, and many ladies among the pupils have painted an entire set of tapestries for the drawing-room, and recently one of the pupils has painted a very artistic ceiling for a Queen Anne cottage.

The illustration on this page gives a view of one of Mrs. Blanchard's studios, in which an artist is seen at work. Mrs. Blanchard is prepared to receive out-of-town orders in all sorts of interior work, and has in her employ a competent corps of French and Italian artists, insuring the prompt execution of all orders entrusted to her. In addition to her large stock of tapestry decorations, she also carries a very large and varied assortment of tapestry materials in silk, linen and wool, and special attention is called to the colored silk tapestries for covering furniture in Louis XV. and Louis XVI. styles.